



Show-Me Literacy

The "Official" Newsletter of Literacy in Missouri

Issue No. 99
February 2003



Regional AEL Director's meetings were recently held throughout the state, including in Lebanon for the southcentral region. State supervisors Linda Hayes and Charlie DeSha (both standing) provided directors with an update on various AEL-DESE issues. Seated, from left, is Crowder-Neosho Director Phyllis Jay; Joplin Director Theresa Cooke; and Carthage Director Galen Snodgrass. Other directors attending the meeting at Lebanon were host Director Steve Rhoads, Lebanon; Houston Director Kaye Cockrum; Camdenton Director Joe Schwandt; West Plains Director Gary Plowick; Springfield Director Ramona George; and Rolla Director Cheryl Harlan.

Newsletter Seeks Program Success Stories

AEL programs see successes almost on a daily basis. Does your program have a particular success story to share? It could be a student success story, an overall programmatic achievement, collaborative success with partnering agencies or entities--whatever you have considered to be a success in this program year, we would

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Show Me. . .

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Directors Hear DESE Updates at Regional AEL Meetings

AEL Directors recently gathered at various locations throughout the state for the 2003 AEL Regional Meetings. The meetings, held twice per year, are sponsored by the Missouri Adult Education & Literacy Administrator's Association (MAELAA).

One change in the meeting format this year was the attendance of state supervisors. Since the Spring AEL Director's meeting was cancelled, the state office felt it was important to have DESE personnel available at the regional meetings to provide informational updates on issues at the state and local levels. Directors were requested to submit any questions, comments and/or concerns in writing on comment sheets provided by the state office.

State supervisors Charlie DeSha and Linda Hayes presented information at the Regional Meeting held in Lebanon.

AEL Improvements

Aspects of AEL improvements regarding expectations from local programs were reviewed, including: paperwork reduction (fewer reports and forms required); technology (no reports required, updating of the ACES data collection system, faster

**Regional Meeting,
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The mission of the "Show-Me Literacy" newsletter is to provide professional information-sharing, resources and news about adult education and literacy.

From The State AEL Office

Educational Resources for Issues of War

With war upon us, so is the need to constructively and critically contend with the classroom issues that emerge as a result. Below are a few resources for educators for dealing with issues of war and crisis in the classroom. Most of the resources are developed for the K-12 classroom (with most targeting 6th through 12th grade) but the lesson plans and resources are adaptable and useful for the adult education classroom.

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/iraq/>

<http://www.esrnational.org/>

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/index.html>

<http://www.choices.edu/index.html>

This message was posted to the NIFL-FOBASICS list-serv by Mariann Fedele, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, Literacy Assistance Center, New York, New York. Used with permission.

Division of Adult Studies has Wealth of Information

Check out the Division of Adult Studies <http://das.kucrl.org/index.html> which holds the Center for Research on Learning <http://www.ku-crl.org/> at The University of Kansas <http://www.ku.edu/> This contains a huge amount of adult education resources and information. Some interesting visits include the "Road to Success: Increasing Self-Sufficiency Among TANF, WtW and VR Clients with Significant Barriers to Learning", at

<http://das.kucrl.org/roadtosuccess.html>

Are Welfare-supported Children Less Intelligent?

Does welfare make kids dumber? No, researchers say that is absurd. But two other researchers argue in the latest issue of the journal "Demography" that the average school-age child who lives in a family receiving welfare doesn't go as far in school as a child living in an equally poor household supported by a paycheck. There was no relationship between welfare and educational attainment in the preschool years. See

<http://www.prb.org/cpipr/cpiprnewsrelease8.html> See also:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/06/politics/06CND-WELF.html>

Applicants Sought for ESL Mini-Grants

Applications are being taken for the 2003 National Institute For Literacy's (NIFL) ESL Special Collection Mini-Grants. The ESL Special Collection mini-grants are designed to help adult literacy teachers develop ESL materials for inclusion on the ESL Special Collection. The Mini-Grants are for \$500, and four grants are expected to be awarded. The deadline is Friday, April 18, 2003.

For more information, visit the ESL Special Collection at <http://www.literacy.net.org/esl/minigrants/index.html>

Report Released on Children's Internet Use

CPB has just released a new report, "Connected to the Future: A Report on

Children's Internet Use," that some of you may find of interest.

<http://www.cpb.org/ed/resources/connected/>

The report (based on surveys conducted by a market research firm) claims 65 percent of American children ages 2-17 now use the Internet from home, school, or some other location, which they say is a 59 percent growth rate since 2000. They report a huge 205 percent increase among African-American children. But it also notes that even with these growth trends, disparities between higher and lower income children still exist.

For those kids with access, it claims that time spent on digital media use is now roughly on par with television viewing--this use includes video games.

The researchers' methodology is available as a separate document.

http://www.cpb.org/pdfs/ed/resources/connected/03_connect_methodology.pdf

Article Lists Strategies on Effective Job Searches

From a recent *NY Times* Circuits section, a useful article about strategies for conducting effective job searches using online resources. Contains links to many employment-related web sites, including a few that are not as widely known as the more obvious links like Monster and Hotjobs. Help Wanted: Customizing a Job Search

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/20/technology/circuits/20basi.html?tnemail>

Learning Network Community Guide

The AT&T Learning Network Community Guide <http://www.att.com/communityguide/index.html> is now available.

In an effort to help individuals and communities realize the importance of the Internet, AT&T created the Learning Network Community Guide.

The guide consists of many different resources, and it serves a variety of purposes.

Two Internet introductions, separated into student and teacher versions, can be used to maximize use of Web tools, newsgroups, and other online services. Other sections of the site suggest ways to raise community awareness of information technology (IT) and facilitate access to the Internet on a large scale.

Safety issues of online activity are discussed, and a glossary of many common terms related to IT is included.

Paper Examines Online Distance Education Potential

A new NCSALL Occasional Paper: "Expanding Access to Adult Literacy with Online Distance Education" examines the potential of online learning to meet the educational needs of adult learners. This monograph, funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education, identifies a number of issues central to making distance education succeed in adult education.

To download a free copy or to order a bound, printed copy of this publication, please visit the NCSALL website <http://ncsall.gse.harvard.edu>

TOTALLY

E News and
C notes from the
H Missouri Adult
N Education &
O Literacy
L Technology
O Center.
G **Technology**
Y **staff:**
Jamy Preul
Jason Ralls
Phyllis Shelby
Randy Powell
Director:
John Stains

Trainer Spotlight



Randy Powell

Randy Powell began working with the AEL Technology Center in November, 2002.

He and his wife moved to the Poplar Bluff area in May, 2002, when his wife accepted a position with Three Rivers Healthcare, a 426-bed facility in Poplar Bluff. He formerly worked as an Emergency Medical Services educator for a hospital in Grapevine, Texas, teaching continuing education for staff and local fire departments. He also taught classes for all hospital employees on Weapons of Mass Destruction and was developing the hospital's action plan.

His employment as an educator for the hospital followed his retirement from a 22-year career as a firefighter/paramedic/police officer in the suburbs of Fort Worth, Texas.

Randy has also worked for two community colleges teaching in the paramedic, fire protection and law enforcement programs. He began working with computers while working in municipal government.

"The two cities I worked for were too small to have IT (information technology) departments, so each department handled it's own computers," he explains. "I learned how to install and maintain hardware and software for the fire department."

Randy holds a bachelor's degree in Business Management from LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas and an associate in applied science degree in Fire Protection from Tarrant County College in Fort Worth. Additionally, he earned an associate in applied science degree in Paramedicine from Cooke County College in Gainesville, Texas.

When he isn't working, Randy enjoys helping his wife with their two horses, reading non-fiction, and motor sports.

Randy's assigned program service area is the South Area, covering 13 programs and communities. His "in-office day" is Friday and on that day, he can be reached at (573) 776-6183; email is alsouth@socket.net.

Websequitur--Useful Shareware Program

From: NIFL Technology Listserve

A very useful shareware program for windows is now available: Websequitur lets you create reading exercises on the Web where students have to figure out which phrase comes first and next in a reading passage. These language exercises teach both reading and writing skills as students figure out how to read in context.

To help others learn what websequitur can do, a web page is available at <http://www.his.com/pshapiro/websequiturs/>. This page includes some children's stories, some nonfiction reading passages and some satire written by the web page designer. The html files that Websequitur creates can also be used with a browser on a computer that is not connected to the internet. So these kinds of reading passages could be copied onto donated computers -- or handed out to students on floppy disks.

Good Picture Books to Read to Adults

Compiled by Glenda Schaefer, AEL Instructor, St. Charles Community College

Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part compilation by Ms. Schaefer. These resources were included in her presentation at the MAACCE Conference last year. She has compiled the following list from her 12 years of teaching adults in the St. Charles AEL Program. The second series of lists will be included in next month's issue.

Reading Comprehension

The Aesop for Children --Many good stories with a moral at the end. These seem to fit just about any occasion. Some are good to handle personal matters, others to help with good decision making, etc. Vocabulary can be elegant.

Beware the Brindlebeast --Anita Riggo (Fears --conclusions). The old lady is happy with the discovery she has made. When it changes, she finds a reason to be happy with the result of the change every time. Finally when it becomes the Brindlebeast, she finds a reason to be happy with him and they become friends. You have the power to make a situation happy or unhappy.

The Blind Men and the Elephant retold by Karen Backstein. (Point of view). I have used this one to illustrate the relationship between management and employee in manufacturing. It can fit many situations.

The Egg and I --Sylvie Chausse (Conclusions --inheritance). Old man leaves greedy relatives his castle, armory, and jewelry, but only gives his favorite nephew an egg. The egg is worth more than all the rest because its value is love.

Hey, Al! --Arthur Yorinks. Be careful what you wish for!

I Spy Spooky Night --Jean Marzollo (Wordless look-type book with a twist at the end --conclusions). Marzollo uses odd bits to create a world for his photos. If I have a number of hands-on folks, this one is good to figure out where this piece or that piece came from. The ending doesn't go with the rest of the book, until you realize that it has been night and that the haunted house is really the miniature house in the child's room.

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie --Laura Numeroff. (Main idea, details, inference).

It Could Always Be Worse --Margot Zemach. (Jewish folk tale about contentment --conclusions). His noisy family overwhelms an old man. The rabbi suggests taking his animals into the house, also. Things get much worse until the rabbi tells him to take the animals back to the barn. His family is not so bad anymore. Both he and his family learn to appreciate civility.

Noah's Ark --Peter Spier. (Wordless book -inference, conclusions). Great pictures-the ark was not the cleanest, quietest, nor most comfortable ship ever built.

Stone Soup --Marcia Brown. (Conclusions). This version has French soldiers and townsfolk. The townsfolk have hidden their food and, it seems, only have a little to eat. The soldiers teach them to combine their stores and enjoy a hearty, nutritious meal together -to make something out of nothing by sharing.

The Stranger --Chris Van Allsburg. (Main idea, details, inference). Excellent puzzle story. Who is the Stranger? There are clues everywhere. He is Fall.

The Sweetest Fig -Chris Van Allsburg. Greed.

Thank You, Mr. Falker --Patricia Polacco.

(Author's dyslexia discovered by a caring teacher). I have not read this one to my students, but did learn a lot from it. It should be required reading for all teachers. I am sure the students would love it, too. Anything by Patricia Polacco is wonderful!

Welcome Comfort -- Patricia Polacco. Janitor befriends overweight child and provides a Christmas miracle. An overweight foster child starts a new school and is immediately teased because of his shape and his funny name. Who would name their child Welcome Comfort? The janitor becomes his friend and gives him the greatest gift he has to give later on.

The Widow's Broom -- Chris Van Allsburg. (Main idea, inference). This is a super story to get the students involved in tolerance. The old widow woman finds a witch in her garden. The witch's broom has lost most of its magic and has caused the witch to crash. The old woman kindly gives the witch a place to rest from her accident instead of calling her neighbors who would definitely have killed her. In return, the witch gives the old woman the worn-out broom. The broom now has a new life of helping the old woman.

The Wretched Stone -- Chris Van Allsburg. The danger of not reading and exercising our minds. Anything by Chris Van Allsburg is wonderful.

Writing

Covered Wagons, Bumpy Trails -- Verla Kay. (Writing). Wonderful adverbs and adjective usage to paint pictures.

Half a Moon and One Whole Star -- Crescent Dragonwagon. African American characters with beautiful illustrations and words. Great to teach adjectives for descriptive writing -painting a picture with words.

If You Were a Writer -- Joan Lowery Nixon. Writing process -adjectives and adverbs. Excellent book for teaching writing in small steps.

**Picture Books,
Continued on Page 5**

Regional Meeting

(Continued from Page 4)

response by Technology Center); and improved professional development (AEL Resource Center web page, established advisory committee).

Data Reporting

DeSha discussed the National Reporting System (NRS) requirements. Title II of the 1998 Workforce Investment Act, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, mandates continuous improvement with regard to service delivery effectiveness. AEL service delivery effectiveness is rated by the U.S. Department of Education using the data included in NRS tables submitted annually.

Local program responsibilities related to meeting NRS standards include quarterly data collection, data certification, ACES with new reports/queries, data verification and error checking, and follow-up matching data. The state's responsibilities include: development of a data quality guide, a state reporting system, quarterly data validation, on-site review and monitoring, data matching, and federal data reporting.

DeSha said local data submission to the state is due Aug. 1, 2003. The state's data submission deadline to the U.S. Department of Education is Dec. 15, 2003.

FY04 Budget

The FY04 budget will be calculated with FY02 data. DeSha said the number of contact hours has increased as well as performance numbers. He said local AEL programs will have their FY04 budgets by July 1, 2003 with signed budgets due back to the state by July 31. Growth and Expansion Requests (GER) funds may be available two times per year, DeSha said.

Online Learning Issues

An advisory committee is being established to continue with technology planning, said Hayes, whose state supervisory position includes technology. The first topic will be contact hours for all online students. Other issues include technology planning, the state technology plan draft and any revisions needed for its final approval. The committee will include a cross section of AEL personnel from

across the state.

The GED Online program is losing the host server from KCTV. Other options are being explored to find or purchase a host server. Contacting Chris Shanks at cshanks@nkcsd.k12.mo.us can register any director or teacher for GED Online access. The web address is www.gedonlineclass.com.

Professional Development/Certification

The AEL Resource Center is currently working to develop inservice/workshop trainings via distance learning. ITV availability statewide is being identified.

The Fall Director's meeting will continue to be held, however the Spring meeting has been eliminated.

Directors have expressed interest in using other inservice options for teacher certification. The current policy indicates that no other professional development activities can be used except those provided by the MO AEL Resource Center.

Technology Equipment

A significant change has been made in technology ownership on the local level. Hayes explained all computers and other technology belongs to the local AEL programs. Questions ensued regarding the issue of maintenance and support.

Hayes said that the written policy is still in development, but essentially, the technology center at Trenton will continue to support the same software, and will perform the same maintenance services. No change has been made in the service that local programs have access to. She added that changes--if any--in service and maintenance will not begin until the next fiscal year. She said local programs have to flexibility to add software as they choose, and the tech center will still work on the computers if a problem arises. However the tech center will charge an hourly rate for the maintenance if the software is not on the software support list that has been developed because of known conflicts or licensing issues.

Approval is required on the new AEL-4 form for any equipment purchases totaling over \$1,000. Additionally, state supervisors and/or technology center personnel will no longer move equipment.

Programs wanting equipment can pick it up directly from other programs. The same is in effect for surplus property. Programs interested in finding additional surplus equipment can contact: Surplus Property at 573/751-3145 in Jefferson City.

Other items

DeSha presented comparison charts of FY 01 and FY02 Core Measure performance in AEL and ESL and FY03 target performance rates.

An orientation/marketing video is in development. The committee has met twice and plans to develop the video as an AEL marketing and informational tool to be utilized by local programs and to disseminate to different organizations in the state.

It was announced that TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) has been moved from the Department of Social Services to the Department of Workforce Development.

Success

(Continued from Page 1)

like to hear about it. A special issue is being developed highlighting and sharing AEL successes, so send them in! Articles may be emailed to editor Cheryl Harlan at charlan@rolla.k12.mo.us or mail to Show-Me Literacy, RTI, 1304 E. 10th Street, Rolla, MO 65401.

Book Listing

(Continued from Page 4)

The Mysteries of Harris Burdick -- Chris Van Allsburg. Fantastic story starters for creative writing. There is a short explanation of how the pictures came to the publisher. Each picture has the beginning lines of a story so they are easily used to stimulate a story idea. A fun writing project. Stephen King used one of these pictures to write *Nightmares* and *Dreamscapes*.

See next month's issue for the second series of book resources.



Show-Me...

What's Happening

2003 COABE National Conference

April 26-30, 2003

Portland, Ore.

www.ninestar.com/coabe

44th Annual Adult Education Research Conference

June 5- 8, 2003

San Francisco State University
San Francisco, CA

<http://www.sfsu.edu/~educ/AERC/aerc.html>

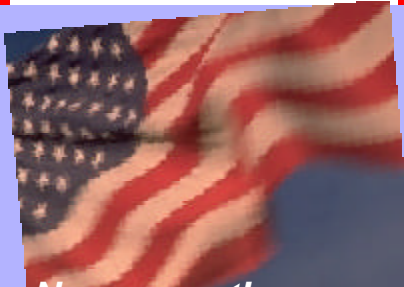
2003 MAACCE Conference

"Picking up Your Pace. . .Rock n' Roll with MAACCE"

June 10-12, 2003

The Lodge of the Four Seasons
Osage Beach

www.maacce.org



*Now more than ever
we salute and honor
those who have
stepped forward to
protect and preserve
the spirit and
promise of America.*

Wanted: Your Success Stories!

"Show-Me Literacy" is looking for program "success stories"--whether it be about students, instructors, overall program achievement, or other successes you would like to share with readers. A special issue will be developed highlighting and sharing AEL successes, so send them in!

Show-Us...Your Stuff!

If you have comments, questions, or story ideas, please send them to Cheryl Harlan, Editor,

by Mail:

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*Digital photos requested;
regular photos will be scanned.*

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Program Coordinator.

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